BIBLIOTHECA REGIA MONACENSIS



(8)

A COPY of a

# LETTER

Written from *ROME*, *July* 14th. 1691.

ABOUT THE

# Chuſing of a POPE.

THE Cardinals being extream uneaſie by reaſon of the exceſſive Heat and other Inconveniencies of the Conclave, came at laſt to the Choſing of a Pope. The Honour of this great Work belonged to the Cardinals *Cantelmi* and *Giudici*; for ſeeing that the Difficulties for *Barberigo*, *Acciaioli*, *Conti*, and *Marcſcotti* were inſurmountable, they at laſt carried on the Intrigue for Cardinal *Pignatelli*, but with ſo much Cunning, that the *French* were the firſt that propoſed him: *Guidici* ſeem'd to be very cold about it, ſaying, the King of *Spain* his Maſter would not like him by reaſon of ſome Difference that had happened formerly at *Naples*. This made the *French* Cardinals, the Party of *Ottoboni* and *Alteri*, and ſome of the Zealots more eager, and they all ſolemnly declared for him. The *Spaniards* finding they had catch'd the *French*, gave him immediately their Votes, followed by the reſt of the Zealots and the whole Party of *Chigi*. Whereupon the *French*, being ſenſible of their Miſtake, endeavoured to go off again, and deſired the Choice of a Pope ſhould be put off for three days; but Cardinal *Gortz* oppoſed it, telling them, they were no Boys, but Cardinals; that they had given their

Votes

Votes once for him, and muſt not now retract it; whereupon *Gortz* and *Medici* employed all their Endeavours to promote the Buſineſs; they miſs'd twice their Ends, but at the third time they had ſo good Succeſs, that Thurſday laſt about Ten a Clock at Night, the Number of the Votes for *Pignatelli* amounted to 54, (amongſt which were thoſe of *Lauria* and *Spinola*, that were but juſt return'd to the Conclave) and about Three a Clock in the Morning the Choice of *Pignatelli* was made known by the Diſcharge of all the Cannon from the Caſtle of St. *Angelo*, and the Ringing of the Bells. The new Pope is 76 Years and four Months of Age: He has aſſumed the Name of *Innocentius* XII. and has declared, That as he has the ſame Name of *Innocentius Odeſchalchi*, ſo he intended to follow exactly his foot-ſteps, deſiring withal, that all the Doctors and Servants that attended that Pope, ſhould alſo ſerve him, to the excluſion of his own Domeſticks. He has alſo ſolemnly declared, that he would endure no *Nepotiſm* nor any of his Kindred about him. Amongſt the Miniſters, he has confirmed the Cardinal *Panciatici* in his Office of Datary; *Albani* in that of Secretary of the Secret Brevets. The Marqueſſes *Aſtalli* and *Cavallieri* in that of Captains of the Guards, *Mario Spinola* in that of Secretary of the Secret Brevets ſent to Princes, and *Nurſi* in that of Commiſſary of the Chamber. He has choſen the Abbot *Antaldi* to his Auditor, the Abbot *Fabroni* to his Secretary of the Memorials, the Abbot *Ricci* to Secretary of the *Cifres*, the Abbot *Bernardin*, a *Dominican*, to his Confeſſor, and *Criſpoldi Coppieri*, and *Campo Reale* (Secretaries to the *Spaniſh* Embaſſador) to his Chamberlains. He has alſo had a Conference with *Alteri* about filling up the Place of Chief Miniſter and Secretary of State, and ſome ſay Cardinal *Spada*, and others *Imperiali* and *Cantelmi* ſtand faireſt for it. Yeſterday *Te Deum* was ſung, to Morrow is to be the Coronation-day, and Monday next is the day deſigned for the Cavalcade to *Monte Cavallo*.

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